

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 AID-20

DPW-01 DRC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /182 W

----- 062224

R 101048Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7931

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 17729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS, HU

SUBJECT: ICCS: HUNGDEL POSITION ON PA&E EMPLOYEES

REF: SAIGON 17627

1. WHEN PA&E EMPLOYEE TALKED WITH MEMBER HUNGDEL OCTOBER 9 IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ICCS PRESENCE FOR PA&E CONFERENCE WITH PRG REPRESENTATIVE, HE WAS TOLD FLATLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY BY POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE JANOS BARABAS THAT ICCS WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT INVOLVED IN THE MATTER AND THAT ICCS WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING.

2. BARABAS REPORTEDLY TOLD PA&E REPRESENTATIVE THAT COMPANY SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT DIRECTLY WITH PRG OFFICE AND THAT TELEPHONE NUMBER THAT OFFICE COULD BE OBTAINED FROM EMB ICCS LIAISON OFFICE. PA&E REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY CALLED EMBOFF TO REPORT THIS CONVERSTATION.

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3. EMBOFF CONFIRMED SUBSEQUENTLY IN TALKING WITH BARABAS THAT PA&E REPORT WAS TRUE AND THAT IN HIS OPINION, ICCS HAD, IN FACT, NO ROLE TO PLAY IN SCHEDULED CONVERSATION. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HIS VIEW IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT ICCS AND ITS CHAIRMAN WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN MATTER AFFECTING CAPTURE AND WELFARE OF EMPLOYEES OF FIRM WITH WHICH ICCS HAD FORMAL CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT HUNGDEL COULD NOT BACK AWAY FROM RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE HUNG AMB IN THE CHAIR. EMBOFF NOTED THAT ICCS PARTICIPATION IN A CONSULTATION WITH PRG SHOULD BE VIEWED IN HUMANE TERMS, NO AS POLITICAL ACTION. AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO KNOWLEDGE ON PART OF PA&E THAT EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY PRG ELEMENTS; PA&E LEGITIMATELY SEEKING ICCS PRESENCE IN TALK WITH PRG IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF EMPLOYEES. EMBOFF REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMB ESZTERGALYOS REPORTED REFTEL, NOTING HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH ESZTERGALYOS IN LATTER'S CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN. EMBOFF SAID IN VIEW BARABAS'S OPINION, HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER AGAIN WITH AMB.

4. WHEN AMB PROVED UNAVAILABLE, EMBOFF HELD HEATED CONVERSATION ALONG SAME LINES WITH DEPUTY URANOVICZ, WHO IF ANYTHING SEEMED EVEN MORE DETERMINED THAT HUNGDEL WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE INVOLVED IN THE MATTER. URANOVICZ AGREED HOWEVER TO SEEK AMB'S CONCURRENCE IN EMBOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT ICCS BE REPRESENTED IN PRG CONVERSATION BY SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL RATHER THAN HUNGDEL REPRESENTATIVE. URANOVICZ PROMISED INFORM EMBOFF OF RESULTS HIS DISCUSSION WITH AMB.

5. PA&E SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO SEND SECOND LETTER DATED OCT 9 TO AMB ESZTERGALYOS EXPLAINING IN GREATER DETAIL THEIR NEED TO HAVE ICCS PRESENCE IN CONVERSTATION WITH PRG. TEXT OF LETTER AS FOLLOWS:

QTE DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

I REFER TO PAE'S LETTER DATED OCTOBER 8, 1973, REQUESTING INTERVENTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION WITH THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES OF THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THE THREE PAE EMPLOYEES APPARENTLY CAPTURED BY PERSONS UNKNOWN ON OCTOBER 6, 1973

PAE FEELS THAT IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE ICCS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH ACTION SINCE THOSE INDIVIDUALS ARE EMPLOYED FOR SUPPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ICCS AND WERE ATTACKED WHILE TRAVELLING IN AN ICCS VEHICLE WITH THE MARKINGS USED TO IDENTIFY ALL SUCH VEHICLES. IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ICCS, ITS MEMBERS AND THE PEACE MISSION FOR SUCH MATTERS TO RECEIVE THE MOST SERIOUS ATTENTION. WHILE PAE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ENTITLED TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONSIDERATIONS AFFORDED THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONS COMPOSING THE ICCS, INSTANCES OF THIS NATURE CERTAINLY WARRANT POSITIVE ACTION BY THE ICCS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE OF RISK TO THE INDIVIDUALS

AFFECTED AND FUTURE RISKS TO PERSONNEL OF THE ICCS AND THOSE WHOSE
EXPOSURE RESULT FROM THEIR EFFORTS IN ITS SUPPORT. PAE, OF COURSE,
WILL COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IN ASSURING THE WEL-
FARE OF ITS PERSONNEL. SINCERELY YOURS,

SIGNED
LANDIS W. HICKS
GENERAL MANAGER

UNQTE.

6. COMMENT: SINCE MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HAVE NOW PASSED
WITHOUT RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S COMMENTS, SINCE HUNGDEL NOW IN
POSSESSION OF SECOND PA&E LETTER, WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT HUNGDEL
HOLDING TO NON-COOPERATIVE POLICY ON THIS MATTER. THIS CAN BE
EXPLAINED ONLY BY HUNG ATTEMPT TO AVOID ANY SITUATION IN WHICH THEY
MIGHT PLAY A ROLE IN ANY WAY RELATED TO POSSIBLE CRITICISM OR CON-
DEMNATION OF PRG.

7. EMBASSY IS ADDRESSING THIRD PERSON NOTE TO ICCS EXPRESSING
CONCERN FOR US CITIZEN AND EXPECTATION ICCS WILL TAKE STEPS WITH
VIETNAMESE PARTIES RE WELFARE OF ITS EMPLOYEES.
MARTIN

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